IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

JOHN WILLIAM WILD,)
Plaintiff,))
V.) Case No. CIV-24-10-GLJ
Frank J. Bisignano,¹))
Commissioner of the Social)
Security Administration,)
)
Defendant.)

OPINION AND ORDER

Claimant, John William Wild, was the prevailing party in this action under the Social Security Act. Claimant seeks an award of attorney's fees in the amount of \$6,041.10 for 22.1 hours of attorney work and 3.7 hours of paralegal time pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d). [Docket No. 22, Ex. 1]. The Commissioner has no objection to the requested fee award. [Docket No. 24].

Upon review of the record herein, the Court finds that the agreed amount is reasonable, and that the Commissioner should be ordered to pay it to Claimant as the prevailing party herein. See 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(A) ("Except as otherwise specifically provided by statute, a court shall award to a prevailing party other than the United States fees and other expenses, in addition to any costs awarded pursuant to subsection (a), incurred by that party in any civil action (other than cases sounding in tort)[.]"); see also

On May 6, 2025, Frank J. Bisignano became the Commissioner of Social Security. In accordance

with Fed. R. Civ. P. 25(d), Mr. Bisignano is substituted for Mr. Dudek as the Defendant in this action.

Manning v. Astrue, 510 F.3d 1246, 1251 (10th Cir. 2007) ("The EAJA therefore permits attorney's fees reimbursement to financially eligible prevailing parties, who make a proper application, and not to their attorneys.").

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that Plaintiff's Application for Award of Attorney's Fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act [Docket No. 22] is hereby GRANTED. The Government is hereby ordered to pay the aforementioned fee award to Claimant as the prevailing party herein. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if Claimant's attorney is subsequently awarded any fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 406(b)(1), said attorney shall refund the smaller amount of such fees to the Claimant pursuant to *Weakley v. Bowen*, 803 F.2d 575, 580 (10th Cir. 1986).

DATED this 21st day of May, 2025.

GERALD L. JACKSON UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE